



S/N 09/031,326

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph J. Karniewicz Examiner: Thai Phan
Serial No.: 09/031,326 Group Art Unit: 2123
Filed: February 26, 1998 Docket: 303.376US1
Title: PARAMETER POPULATION OF CELLS OF A HIERARCHICAL
SEMICONDUCTOR STRUCTURE VIA FILE RELATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2100

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on October 4, 2002, and the patents cited therein.

No claims are amended, canceled, or are added; as a result, claims 1 - 25 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,524,244) in view of Ho (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,814).

Robinson 5,524,244

The Robinson et al patent relates to a system for dividing a processing task into tasks for a programmable real-time signal processor (SPROC) and tasks for a decision making microprocessor. The system is described as being programmed in a manner requiring entry of nothing more than a block diagram of a user's design. The patent discusses a SPROC cells Function Library that "contains over fifty predefined functions which can be used through the graphical interface of the SPROClab development system" (col 36, lines 43 - 45).

While the Robinson et al patent may show that the SPROC cells are "design cells" useful for putting multiple instances of themselves in a circuit design with certain variations based on file association, it does not show how the programmable "design cells" themselves may be created from abstract geometric shapes - i.e. the "geometric variables relating to a physical layout" called for in amended claim 1 and discussed in Applicant's patent specification.